

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company
Docket Nos. D.T.E. 02-24 and D.T.E. 02-25
Responses to the Department's First Set of Information Requests

Request No. DTE 1-34:

Refer to the testimony of Mark H. Collin at 16. Please describe in detail the "[c]oncentrated review efforts by engineers and operations personnel [that] have resulted in many upgrades and replacements." Provide any studies and reports made as a result of such review.

Response:

The review efforts by engineering and operations personnel refer to many investigations and analyses that are often not developed into studies and reports. For example, a detailed network model of FG&E's gas system has been created in Stoner SynerGEE Gas modeling software. This model is used on an ongoing basis to perform system studies, and to develop decisions and recommendations for system upgrades. Recommendations are generally quantified and justified as part of the annual capital budgeting process, and are incorporated into annual construction plans. Each project is identified and justified on a case-by case basis.

Additional investigations and field assessments are performed by operating personnel, including condition assessment of distribution facilities. Again, these investigations and assessments are typically not developed into formal studies and reports. They instead form the basis for capital budget decisions and are quantified and justified as part of the annual capital budgeting process, and are incorporated into annual construction plans.

A significant portion of FG&E's annual capital budget is devoted to a cast iron replacement program. Each year, this plan is reviewed and revised to incorporate system requirements for general pressure improvements and new load, leakage/breakage history and municipal paving and road improvement schedules. The results of such analyses are incorporated directly into the cast iron replacement program. Please refer to DTE 1-37 for details of the cast iron replacement program.

A copy of FG&E's 1999 High-Pressure Gas Planning Study is included as Attachment DTE 1-34, Gas Division. This study has guided system upgrade and design decisions over the last few years. Each year, various aspects of these recommendations are rerun and reanalyzed as part of the capital budgeting process. Because gas loads in the FG&E system have not grown appreciably over the last several years, it has not been necessary to reissue a new report each year. However, a comprehensive gas distribution planning study is being issued in 2002.

Person Responsible: Mark H. Collin